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In the Claims:

Please amend Claims 1 and 11, all as shown below. Applicant respectfully reserves the right to prosecute any originally presented or canceled claims in a continuing or future application.

1. (Currently Amended) A collaboration system that supports conversations between business trading partners over multiple business protocols, comprising:

a central collaboration hub hosting a plurality of collaboration spaces and capable of automatically receiving and sending messages between business trading partners as part of a workflow conversation between the business trading partners, wherein each of the collaboration spaces provides an abstraction for use in communicating independently of business protocols used by the business trading partners;

a plurality of business protocol handlers that can be plugged into the collaboration hub, wherein each of which are business protocol handler is configured to recognize a different business-to-business electronic trading business business-to-business protocol vocabulary chosen from the group of RosettaNet, XOCP, Biztalk, cXML, or other electronic trading business business-to-business protocols, and wherein each business protocol handler

convert decodes incoming messages from senders that use its particular business-to-business protocol vocabulary, into the abstraction used by the collaboration space, for subsequent routing within the collaboration hub, and

encodes outgoing messages from the abstraction used by the collaboration space into its particular business-to-business protocol vocabulary, for subsequent communication to recipients that use that particular business-to-business protocol vocabulary;

and wherein any one of the electronic trading business business-to-business protocols is selected and used by a business trading partner to allow its business processes to send and receive messages to and from the collaboration hub according to using the particular electronic trading business business-to-business protocol vocabulary and process flow that is used locally at that business trading partner[[.]];

wherein a workflow conversation is a collective set of said messages that comprises a workflow between the business-to-business processes operating at two or more business trading partners, and wherein each of said collaboration spaces stores the set of messages for a particular one or more workflow conversations within a context, and wherein each unique combination of a particular collaboration space together with a particular electronic trading business business-to-business protocol is associated with a unique uniform resource locator; and

a messaging protocol that allows each of the business trading partners to use their local

electronic trading business business-to-business protocol vocabulary to ~~allow~~ enable their business-to-business processes to participate in ~~the~~ workflow conversations and to specify a routing information, wherein the electronic trading business business-to-business protocol ~~they use~~ used by the business trading partner to communicate with ~~the~~ a collaboration space is specified by the uniform resource locator that the business trading partner selects to communicate with ~~the~~ that collaboration space, and wherein the routing information is then specified by the business-to-business process in a header of the messaging protocol.

2. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1 wherein the routing criteria for a message are specified by the message protocol.
3. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 2 wherein the routing criteria is specified in the message overhead.
4. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 3 wherein the collaboration hub includes a repository of business trading partner and workflow conversation information which can be matched against a message overhead to determine the routing for a message.
5. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 4 further comprising a message router for routing a message depending on the content of the message overhead and the content of the repository.
6. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 4 further comprising a message filter for filtering a message depending on the content of the message overhead and the content of the repository.
7. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1 further comprising a messaging bridge for transferring messages from a first collaboration space to a second collaboration space.
8. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1 further comprising a messaging gateway for transferring messages from a collaboration space to a business messaging system.
9. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 8 wherein the business messaging system is

any of an XML, CSML, Ariba NET or equivalent messaging system.

10. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1 further comprising a messaging proxy for transferring messages to a messaging device.

11. (Currently Amended) A method for routing messages between participants in a collaboration system involving multiple business protocols, comprising the steps of:

providing a plurality of ~~business-to-business electronic trading~~ business protocol handlers, ~~wherein each of which are~~ business protocol handler is configured to recognize a different electronic trading business business-to-business protocol vocabulary chosen from the group of RosettaNet, XOCP, Biztalk, cXML, or other electronic trading business business-to-business protocols, and

decode incoming messages from senders that use its particular business-to-business protocol vocabulary, into the abstraction used by the collaboration space, for subsequent routing within the collaboration hub, and

encode outgoing messages from the abstraction used by the collaboration space into its particular business-to-business protocol vocabulary, for subsequent communication to recipients that use that particular business-to-business protocol vocabulary convert incoming messages for routing within the collaboration hub, and

wherein any one of the electronic trading business business-to-business protocols is selected and used by a business trading partner to allow its business processes to send and receive messages to and from the collaboration hub according to the particular electronic trading business business-to-business protocol vocabulary and process flow that is used locally at that business trading partner.

hosting a plurality of collaboration spaces at a central collaboration hub, capable of automatically receiving and sending messages between business trading partners, as part of a workflow conversation between the business trading partners, wherein each of the collaboration spaces provides an abstraction for use in communicating independently of business protocols used by the business trading partners,

wherein a workflow conversation is a collective set of said messages that comprises a workflow between the business-to-business processes operating at two or more business trading partners, and

wherein each of said collaboration spaces stores the set of messages for a particular

workflow conversation within a context, and may be accessed by the business trading partners using any of a plurality of electronic trading business business-to-business protocols, and

wherein each unique combination of collaboration space together with a electronic trading business business-to-business protocol is associated with a unique uniform resource locator that allows a business trading partner using a particular electronic trading business business-to-business protocol to access a collaboration space using the uniform resource locator associated with that combination; and

sending messages within the collaboration space using a messaging protocol that allows each of the business trading partners to use their local electronic trading business business-to-business protocol vocabulary to allow their business-to-business processes to participate in the workflow conversation and to specify a routing information, wherein the electronic trading business business-to-business protocol they use to communicate with the collaboration space is specified by the uniform resource locator that the business trading partner selects to communicate with the collaboration space, and wherein the routing information is then specified by the business-to-business process in a header of the messaging protocol.

12. (Original) The method of claim 11 including specifying the routing criteria for a message by the message protocol.

13. (Original) The method of claim 12 including specifying the routing criteria in the message overhead.

14. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 13 including storing a repository of business trading partner and workflow conversation information which can be matched against a message overhead to determine routing for a message.

15. (Original) The method of claim 14 further comprising:  
routing a message depending on the content of the message overhead and the content of the repository.

16. (Original) The method of claim 14 further comprising:  
filtering a message depending on the contact of the message overhead and the content of the repository.

17. (Original) The method of claim 11 further comprising:  
sending a message via a messaging bridge from a first collaboration space to a second collaboration space.
18. (Original) The method of claim 11 further comprising:  
sending a message via a messaging gateway from a collaboration space to a business messaging system.
19. (Canceled).
20. (Original) The method of claim 11 further comprising:  
sending a message via a messaging proxy from a collaboration space to a messaging device.
21. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1 including a message router that routes a message and a message filter that filters a message.
22. (Original) The method of claim 11 including the steps of routing and filtering a message.
23. (Canceled).